

Joseph J. Chella
Principal

Hassan Robinson
Assistant Principal

The Bennet Star



March 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

It's hard to believe March is here and that April vacation will be here before you know it. With a few months left of school, we want to again point out and acknowledge the effort students have put into their current school year. Bennet students continue to impress staff with their consistent commitment to their learning. We thank you as well for your support and leadership in this journey.

As we all know, Connecticut now administers the Smarter Balanced Assessment to all students as its standardized assessment. The testing window is April 25 through May 13. We will be sending home a schedule, prior to the testing window, which will outline which days testing will take place within the window. Please encourage your child to do their very best on these assessments. We ask that, to the best of your ability, you make it a priority to have your child get a good night's sleep, eat a solid breakfast and be present and on time for school during the Smarter Balanced administration. We really appreciate your help with this request. If you have any questions regarding the Smarter Balanced, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thanks to all that came in (or over the phone) for our parent conferences! Conferences are a nice way for us to share the progress that your child has made throughout the marking period. However, please know that questions can be answered at any time regarding your child's achievement, not only during conferences. Please feel free to email teachers or support services at any point if you have a question, concern or would like to share something positive. Certainly, a phone call is fine as well. If you are still not comfortable, a meeting with a teacher or team may be requested.

We, at Bennet, are continuously working to provide a positive school climate for our entire school community. In line with this effort, we will be having a school wide assembly put on by the District Wide Fine Arts Program as well as our annual Staff vs Student Basketball Game. More information will be sent home as we get closer. We are very excited about these upcoming events along with the other events approaching in the last few months of school (more information to follow).

We would like to thank all parent(s)/guardian(s) again for your consistent support of your child and Bennet Academy as a whole. This is a partnership and we cannot be successful without your participation. Our students and staff are very lucky here at Bennet to have your support!

Sincerely,

Joe Chella

Joe Chella, Principal

PRINCIPAL HOURS

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

April 5, 2016

May 10, 2016



ABSENT LINE

Please call the 24 hour absent telephone line every time your child is absent from school:

860-647-3583

Please leave your child's name, home base teacher, team, and the reason for the absence.
Thank you!



www.heart.org/hoops



Sixth Grade Physical and Immunizations

All sixth grade students are required to have a physical and proper immunizations by June 1, 2016 on file in the Bennet Academy Health Office. The blue state physical forms must be dated after January 2015 to June of 2016. The State of Connecticut also requires that each student have a Tdap booster after age 11; two varicellas; and a meningococcal vaccine. Failure to provide documentation of the proper health requirements may result in your student not being allowed to enter grade 7 at Iling Middle School. If you have any questions, please call and speak with a school nurse at 860-647-3582. Thank you.

Bennet's Virtual Backpack is Up and Running

Please remember that ALL communications that are normally sent home in Tuesday's Communication Folder, can now be accessed through the "virtual backpack" on the homepage of our website. Notices will be posted by 3:00PM every Tuesday. If you wish to **STOP** receiving paper notices, fill out the form that was sent home the week of November 10th (or find the form in the virtual backpack for that week). All notices requiring a signature, will continue to be sent home with students.

Look for THIS symbol!!!



Physical Education News

Physical Education News:

We are winding up our fitness unit and getting into March madness frenzy with our basketball unit! GO UCONN!

We are also in full swing with Hoops for Heart, a fundraiser for the **American Heart Association**. The students are all learning about the importance of heart health, including ways to prevent heart disease and stroke.

Did you know????

About **610,000 people** die of heart disease in the United States every year—*that's 1 in every 4 deaths!*

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women.

Heart Disease is **100% PREVENTABLE**.

Donations collected will be used by the American Heart Association for:

- Research
- Public Health Education
- Professional Education & Training
- Community Services
- Management & General Fundraising



Together, the students are experiencing the importance of kindness and helping others by contributing through this voluntary fundraiser.

Students can log on to view Bennet's Hoop for Heart page, and even raise funds online with parent's help! We are off to a GREAT start! Keep up the EXCELLENT work!

Bennet Academy Art Class

Mrs. Guzzi's classes are finishing their acrylic paintings of animals. They used value (lights and darks) to create the illusion of Form (3 dimensional).

Mrs. Reimel's classes have finished their "Things in the Ocean" projects using Oil Pastels and Water Colors, also using value to create the illusion of Form.

Mrs. Sweeney's classes have been working on contour line drawings and are getting ready to paint.



Lauren's contour
line drawing



Contour hand
drawings by
Jacob

Acrylic paintings



Jamie's Scorpion



Alexandra's Puppy



Elayna's Horse



Mia's Dog



Titia's Oil Pastel & Water Color



Nathalie's Oil Pastel & Water Color



Students in after-school activities will board late buses at 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

SAFETY

REMINDER

TO PARENTS

Please be sure to have your child exit and enter your car on the sidewalk side of the street. You may also drop off your child in the staff parking lot on School Street.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Ms. Molly Sayles,
Band Director

Mrs. Browning,
Orchestra
Director

Mrs. Sandefer, Choral
Director and
Classroom Music



Music Notes

Concerts

April is just around the corner and so are our Townwide Concerts. These concerts will feature all of our Bennet musicians and will allow families to see the musical growth that takes place from our young fifth grade students to our accomplished High School Musicians. It is an amazing transformation! All three of our Townwide Concerts will take place in Manchester High School's Bailey auditorium starting at 7PM. We invite all parents, teachers and friends to come to these fantastic performances.

Tuesday, April 5th - Townwide String Concert, 7PM at MHS

Wednesday, April 6th - Townwide Band Concert, 7PM at MHS

Thursday, April 7th - Townwide Chorus Concert, 7PM at MHS

In May our Bennet musicians will once again take the stage for the Bennet Spring Concert. This performance will feature the Bennet Band, Orchestra, and Chorus along with Bennet Singers, the Bennet Jazz Band and the Bennet String Ensemble. All of our Bennet musicians will have an opportunity to share all their hard work with Teachers, administration, fellow students and families. We invite everyone to come to the Bennet Spring Concert.

Wednesday, May 4th - Bennet Spring Concert, 7PM at MHS

March Is Music In Our Schools Month

March is Music In Our Schools Month and we have many musical events to highlight during the Month of March

Eastern Region Festival

Every fall students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to audition for the Eastern Region Music Festival. This festival is sponsored by CMEA (Connecticut Music Educators Association) in which the best musicians in the Eastern portion of the state are selected, by audition to perform with their regions Orchestra, Band, Jazz Band or Chorus. This year we had one of our Bennet students selected.

Susan Lindemann, cello Eastern Region Orchestra Participant

CMEA Honors Orchestra

Four Bennet musicians were selected for the CMEA honors Orchestra. They will be performing at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on April 28th as part of the CMEA conference for music educators in the State of Connecticut.

Emma Greenfield and Sabrina Keovilay on viola, Eden Lewis and Cam-Nhung Quach on violin

March PTSA meeting

The music department hosted the March PTSA meeting in the Bennet band room. We offered refreshments and music to thank parents for all the support they give to the music program in Manchester. Mrs. Browning, Mrs. Sandefer, and Ms. Sayles very much appreciate everyone contributing to the success of the music program here at Bennet Academy.

March Board of Education Meeting

The Bennet String Ensemble performed in the Media center at Bennet as board members, faculty, students and parents arrived for the March Board Meeting.

Music Notes continued



Susan Lindemann, Cello
Eastern Region Orchestra Participant



March PTSA Meeting in the Bennet Band Room



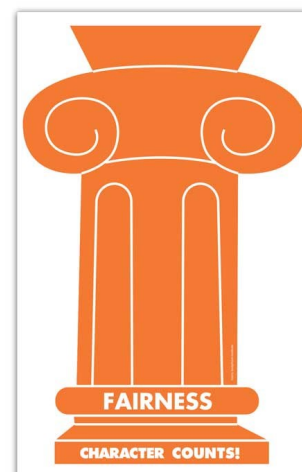
The Bennet String Ensemble performed
in the Media Center for the March Board
of Education Meeting.

Bennet Counseling Corner

PILLAR OF THE MONTH: MARCH – FAIRNESS

HOW TO BE A FAIR PERSON

- ♦ Treat people the way you want to be treated.
- ♦ Take turns.
- ♦ Tell the truth.
- ♦ Play by the rules.
- ♦ Think about how your actions will affect others.
- ♦ Listen to people with an open mind.
- ♦ Don't blame others for your mistakes.
- ♦ Don't take advantage of other people.
- ♦ Don't play favorites



Future Problem Solvers



Future Problem Solvers Explore the Global Workplace

Bennet Academy students and coach heading to the Future Problem Solving State Competition on April 1-2 are: (l to r, back row): Clara Minor, Gabrielle Brocki, Titia Watson, Aureliana Brown, Eden Lewis, Paige Zuverink, Sarika Akila, Rowan Masse, Ben Roy, Jonah Nielsen, FPS Coach: Mrs. Samantha Randazzo. (l to r, back row): Jamie Dykstra, Sarah Silberberg, Lillianna King, Lorelai Chapps, Daicha Chaluian-Rojas, Alexandra Hamza, Madison Ellis, Dara Song, Sophia Goldberg-Doyle, Adam Rodowicz, Stephen Gagnon, and Kwaku Nyame. Missing from photo: Aaron Lemoine, Jose Matute.



Congratulations to Bennet Academy Future Problem Solvers (FPS). Twenty-four students who participate in the Future Problem Solving academic competition have qualified to compete in the 33rd Annual Future Problem Solving Conference to be held at North Haven High School in North Haven, CT on April 1-2. FPS is part of the C.O.R.E. Enrichment Program for gifted and talented students in Manchester Public Schools.

The Conference involves two days of high level team competition with students from all over the state of Connecticut. The topic students will be solving at the Conference is *The Global Workplace*: an exploration of how the workplace may change in the future as the global economy evolves and more people begin to telecommute or collaborate remotely via the internet to do business. Global enterprises are predicted to become more innovative while many workers may function as independent contractors or part-time employees for several different companies. How can education prepare students for the workplace of the future? Will automation downsize the workforce? What are the health and psychological consequences of a workforce that spends a great deal of time "connected" to their workplace. These are just some of the issues Bennet students are addressing as they prepare for competition. They hope to better prepare for their future employment through their current work in the Future Problem Solving Program.

The goal of the FPS Program is to help children develop the critical and creative thinking skills necessary to adapt to a changing society. Future Problem Solvers learn how to think, rather than what to think. Students develop teamwork skills, improve their written and oral communication and engage in realistic exploration of complex societal issues. Teams work under the guidance of an experienced Future Problem Solving coach, Mrs. Samantha Randazzo, C.O.R.E. Enrichment Program Teacher. Students learn how to apply the six-step FPS problem solving process to a futuristic scenario. After studying the written scenario, teams identify implied challenges and issues as they refine their ideas to one problem area, generate solutions, evaluate their solutions, and write an action plan detailing the best solution. Please visit these websites for more information: www.fpspofct.org and www.fpspi.org.



Bennet Academy S.T.A.R.S. Award Winners



Congratulations to the following students who received a S.T.A.R.S. Award at Bennet Academy recently: Amir Maldonado, Chosen Williams, Cassie Alicea, Charles Ather, Jack Larson (2), William Thompson, Noriah Sampel, Zayda-Lyn Downes, Jacory Palmer, Zach Zdrojowy, Mary Valentine, Julia Finkbein, Daisy Gonzalez, Elayna Espinal, Mahek Rentia, Sophia Thompson, Collin Demo, Kyle Grant, Michael Maddox, Bianca Boutot, Sean Rojas, Jaydah Davis, Ethan Gardner, Jayden Oyola, Victoria Resto.

Their pictures are highlighted on our Bennet Academy television monitor located outside the main office. We are proud of our students for the positive choices they are making at Bennet Academy.

French Toast With Mr. Chella



March Student of the Month/Student Spotlight Breakfast

From left to Right: Marielis Rodriguez, Dashawn Douglas, Lawrence Mensah, Mr. Chella, Dara Song, Sarah Silberberg, Aureliana Brown.

Team Hughes



The Hughes News

Mr. Mordhorst

Ms. Swanbon

Ms. Stevenson

Ms. Paluso

Ms. McLaughlin

Mrs. Timreck

Ms. Nofi

MARCH 2016

H A P P Y S P R I N G !!!

Congratulations to our STAR Students of the Month

Dara Song ~ January

Riley Lane ~ February

I M P O R T A N T D A T E S

April 11 ~ 15 ~ Spring Recess

April 21st - Staff vs. Students basketball game

Home Access Center

The Home Access Center is a useful tool to help keep you informed about your child's progress throughout the school year. It is available to you 24-7. You can login to check on work completion and grades as often as you like. If you need your username and password sent to you again, please contact the Main Office.

Math- Ms. Paluso

January was the perfect time for our small study of Prime Factorization, Greatest Common Factor, and Least Common Multiple. Students should continue building fluency with multiplication facts, as they are a critical part of building math fluency. A few students said they even used LCM to determine hot dogs to buns for Superbowl Sunday!

February we began our next adventure with Integers (EnVision Topic 3). At this level, it is just an introduction to integers, how we use and see negative numbers in everyday life, and the fun part of plotting points on a coordinate grid. Students have had prior experience with this, however, the grid only contained positive numbers. With the introduction of negatives, there are now four quadrants of the grid to work with. We will start Coordinate Graphing (EnVision Topic 4) the first week of March.

Pi Day Project! Finally, a project in math! National Pi Day is 3.14. Students will be learning briefly about how the diameter of any circle relates to its circumference with the magic number- Pi - 3.14. A Pi Day poster will be created and judged to enter into the whole school poster contest. Various winners will receive Pi pencils, Pi t-shirts and the grand prize winner gets to PIE Mr. Chella! Look for our outstanding submissions in the next newsletter. Thank you for your continued support!

vpaluso@mpspride.org

Team Hughes continued

Social Studies - Ms. Stevenson

In Social Studies, we have just finished our unit on the Caribbean.. We have talked about the history, the cultures, and the land. We will now move on to South America, starting with the northern countries. Each class also got to try the new breakout boxes with Mrs. Rafala. They had a great time. One group from period 6 got in and one group from period 8 got in. We continue to have our weekly geography packets for homework that are given out on Monday and are due on Friday. We also complete a daily geography question in their notebooks when they come in to class. b21cstev@mpspride.org

Science - Mr. Mordhorst

The Science class recently completed our first section of the Weather unit. We are learning about the layers of the atmosphere and the differences between them. Students just finished a project where they had to invent their own mnemonic to remember the order of the layers where the first letter of each word stands for a layer of the atmosphere. From a period 3 student for example, "The Sick Oompa Loompas Might Infect The Emus," stands for "Troposphere, Stratosphere, Ozone Layer, Mesosphere, Ionosphere, Thermosphere, Exosphere."

Next we will learn how energy and pollution affect the atmosphere, then we will learn about specific weather patterns. Part of this section will be a research project on an historical storm so students can understand how much weather impacts our daily lives.

On March 8th we will go the Connecticut Science Center. Part of this trip will be an experiment lead by Science Center staff focused on weather patterns. Many students have been to the Science Center before and they are looking forward to going back.

The salmon eggs in our class tank are starting to hatch, so we will start some class activities on them. Our eggs this year were very healthy, and I believe a lot of that is because we left them alone until they started to hatch, so our students' patience is paying off. They will stay with us until May when the whole team will release them into the Salmon River.

b11kmord@mpspride.org

Language Arts - Ms. Swanbon

In Language Arts, students have been extremely successful in developing their writing and becoming Literary Essayists. Students have used what they already know about learning how to create big ideas from details about literary characters, analyzing and discovering what the character really wants and the motivation behind it, and crafting well developed claims about characters within a text to forge on towards developing essays about "Theme." Students have delved deeper into their text to analyze why an author includes certain aspects of the story in order to create a message to the reader. In addition, students are becoming experts at including evidence and have learned how to use specific detail from the text to support their statements and ideas. Students have had the opportunity to draft several literary essays, cite their text evidence and revise their work.

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at how readers think differently when reading informational text and analysis of the key ideas in non-fiction. Students are developing into wonderful readers and writers. It is exciting to see their progress!

b57lswan@mpspride.org

Special Note: Please be sure your student returns to school with the appropriate class supplies, especially pencils. Many students are asking for pencils almost daily and teachers are unable to provide for such a demand.

*The Team Hughes Family would like to wish
everyone a Happy Early Spring !*



Team Cheney

Cheney Chronicles

Where all the S.T.A.R.S. shine

Spring 2016

Team News

From the desk of Jan Broidis

Language Arts

Unit 3 has students reading informational text. Students will explore a variety of text features to help them comprehend non-fiction text. Students will focus on citing evidence, comprehension and making inferences. Goals for this unit are summarizing and to understand content specific vocabulary. I am hoping to do some cross curricular activities with science and social studies text as this unit lends itself to that perfectly. Please have your child reading nonfiction text for this unit. Biographies, autobiographies and any informational text is perfect.

From the desk of Jess Albert

Math Happenings:

As we transition into spring, we will begin working with ratios, rates and percents. A great way to connect this to real life is to look at unit prices at the grocery store.

My web site is up and running. This web page will keep parents informed of the dates when I will hold extra help after school. This site will also list the daily homework assignments that will stay posted until the end of each week. To access the site, go to the Bennet Academy web site. On the far right there is a link for Faculty and Staff. This leads you to the staff directory. You will see my name and email and you will now see a link to the web site. I am hoping that parents and guardians find this helpful and I look forward to receiving feedback about the site from you.



It is really important that students know their basic multiplication and division facts. There are many web sites that can help kids practice them: mathplayground.com or coolmathgames.com.

For fun math puzzles please go to the following site: <http://www.mathsisfun.com/puzzles/>

From the desk of Shelley Carlson

Social Studies:

In Social Studies students are preparing for their final DBQ to wrap up our unit on South America. Bennet students have been asked to share their Wall that Heals reflection papers which will be used in a book to honor the Gold Star families of Manchester. The books will be distributed to Manchester families who lost loved ones in the Vietnam War. We are also holding a "Cover Contest" open to all Bennet Academy students and the winning submission will be used as the cover for the book. It is a great opportunity for our students to connect with their community!

Team Cheney

From the desk of Paul Duva

Science:

Students are in the middle of studying how environmental conditions can affect biotic or living things. A tree is our biotic study subject and precipitation is the environmental condition that can have an impact on growth. Students have measured the annual growth rings of a tree from 1991-2003 and are comparing this data to precipitation for the corresponding years. A double line graph will be constructed and any correlations will be drawn from comparing the data sets.

All of our salmon have hatched. Next, we will be delving into river ecosystems and studying how this ecosystem functions. This unit will prepare us for our salmon release in May.

From the desk of Kathleen Boccia

Special Education -

Where has the year gone? It is hard to believe. I have been so proud of our students. They continue to grow in their learning and as a person. It is amazing to see the transformation of who they are becoming. As I support students in the classroom, we continue to build on their strengths and improve their weaknesses. I am available for extra help on Mondays and Wednesdays. The curriculum is challenging so I welcome all students who want extra help with their work.

Team Cheney News:

We have our field trip scheduled for the CT Science Center for April 8th.

Please keep checking student planners to help kids stay organized and current with assignments.

Please make sure students are reading 30 minutes every night and completing their reading log.

Please make sure that students have a notebook and a folder for each of their classes. A supply of pencils would also be appreciated.



Team Angelou

Spring is arriving and we seem to have gotten through a very mild winter with only a couple snow days! What a difference from last year. Fingers crossed that March is as kind to us!

Team Angelou enjoyed a wonderful trip to the CT Science Center in February. Thanks to all the parents and staff who came along to help us out. The kids had a great time. We saw a 3D movie about the Galapagos Islands, and toured the center from top to bottom. We ended our trip with lunch and returned to school as happy campers.

Mrs. Gibson

Our Language Arts classes have completed our Literary (Argument) Essays and we saw so much improvement in our students' writing! Our new unit for Reading and Writing Workshop will be "Informational Text". Students will be reading non-fiction books and articles, and learning how to take notes and do research on a topic. This aligns with our Social Studies curriculum, as well. Students will also be reading about Teen Activists and responding in their writing.

Reminder: Students still need to read 30 minutes per night and document the minutes in their Reading Log (available from home in Google Classroom) Additionally, they will have a "Reading Response" assignment every month that shows their knowledge of a book they have been reading during that month. Reading Logs and Reading Response assignments are due at the end of each month.

Noteworthy is Mrs. Gibson's home base won a pizza party this month! Our class raised the most money in the school for the CT Children's Hospital for our pajama day. Many other classes were very generous also, and Bennet Academy raised the most money for the hospital than any other school in the district! Way to go Bennet Bears!

Mr. Ortiz

As many of you already know, we are using Google Classroom and Google Slides to assemble students' social studies virtual notebook. To guide students as they assemble their virtual notebooks, students are provided with a document called South America Guidelines that is updated periodically by me as we navigate through unit 3. Students also receive feedback and their notebook grade electronically too. Ask your child to log into Google Classroom to share with you the creativity that they have used to show, explain, and connect with Latin America. As we explore South America, students will explore and discuss which groups in Brazil use the rainforest to make a living. They will also explore why Brazil's rain forest is so important to the world. In addition, students will research and talk about the solutions that have been found to settle the conflicts that encompass the use of the rain forest. Finally, students will continue to make connections with the five themes of geography and how people shape the environment that they live.

Mrs. Silagi

As many of our mathematicians continue working on lessons in Fastt Math and Fraction Nation, they are now working diligently on i-ready math/language arts program, which is now a part of their daily school routine. Please be reminded that Fastt Math and Fraction Nation can be accessed online at home ~ happy math practice!

As a Team, we have shown growth at becoming more fluent in all operations (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing) with decimals. We have also made progress in becoming more fluent in long division. However, we will continue to practice so we can reach our highest potential as math learners. Each day in math class, we are becoming more comfortable engaging in high quality math "debates" by focusing on the Common Core Math Practice of justifying math arguments. Our students are using more elaboration when having polite conversations as to whether they agree or disagree with one another about their answers to difficult math problems. Furthermore, we continue to solve multi-step math problems by use of written explanations, math talks, and class conversations in an effort to demonstrate how they figured out the answers. We are participating in a school-wide poster contest for the best Pi Day (3.14.16) poster. We are working collaboratively to create posters that include, but are not limited to the following: three or more Pi facts; 15 or more digits of Pi; quality craftsmanship; and presenting the assignment in a new way. Math is fun!

As a gentle reminder: please continue to help your child practice their math facts at home. Once your child is fluent with mathematical facts (as most of you are probably noticing this time of year), the problems will become much easier!

Team Angelou continued

Ms. St. Laurent

In science we have completed our Introduction to Matter Unit. We have moved on to Weather and Climate. In this unit, we will learn about our atmosphere and how it functions. We will also learn about all types of weather, how weather is formed, severe weather and how meteorologists forecast the weather. Additionally, we will learn about the climate in different parts of the world and the way our climate is changing over time.

We are excited to announce that our salmon eggs have hatched and we have a good number of healthy Alevin!! We look forward to observing their growth and will be collecting data as they progress and are ready for release. We will be taking a field trip in mid-May to release our salmon so stay tuned.

Finally I'd like to congratulate all the students who participated in the Science Fair/Invention Convention this year. They all worked very hard and we saw some great projects. Two of our students, Stephen Gagnon and Adam Rodowicz, took first place and will be moving onto the town wide Science Fair to be held at Illing Middle School on April 23rd.

Enjoy Spring!



Team Angelou Science Center Field Trip

Left to right: Jacob M., Logan S., Stephen G., Emonie L., Julia S.



Team Escalante

Science

The students have been working hard completing the first unit on Weather. We have done several hands-on activities identifying the layers of the atmosphere and how Earth receives sunlight. We're wrapping up the differences between global and local winds and will start working primary and secondary pollutants in class. The students will begin working on a pollution brochure in class. Our second unit will include the water cycle, air masses and fronts, and finish off with a severe weather project.

Our salmon have all hatched! We now have alevin swimming around at the bottom of the tank. Over the next two months, we will observe the changes in the alevin and we will start preparing for their release in May!

Language Arts

The students just completed a unit on Argument Writing where they continued working on writing a claim and using evidence to support their claim. They also spent time writing Compare and Contrast essays. Ask them to tell you the difference between a 6th grade Compare and Contrast essay and what they wrote in elementary school!

Students also had another opportunity to review their independent reading books. This time around students were able to choose from a menu of choices. The projects included news broadcasts, character interviews, and scrapbooks.

We are beginning a reading and writing unit on informational text.

Math

The sixth graders are working on positive and negative numbers and how to plot them on a number line. In graphing points in the coordinate plane which includes both positive and negative x and y coordinates.

Accelerated Math

Students are learning about ratios and proportions and how they relate to real life situations. We are also exploring geometric shapes and how ratios help us determine similar figures. We will also study percents, decimals and fractions and how they relate to one another.

Social Studies

In social studies students are exploring various features of South America by using an online interactive map. Students are able to access this map on their chromebook to explore climate, population, natural resources and other features of South America. We have watched various clips on the Amazon river and rainforest to help further dive into the various physical features of South America. Students are asking themselves questions as they dig deeper and research the continent. How does physical geography and the movement of people impact culture?

Team Kennedy

Language Arts News from Mrs. Melesko

Your child is a writer. I am thrilled by the progress your child has made in writing during this unit. Most recently in Writer's Workshop, students wrote essays comparing and contrasting multiple texts. They then learned that essayists use a variety of resources to revise their essays. Using an editing checklist, students edited their essays, and their peers' essays for grammar, punctuation and capitalization. Today, students began their end-of-the-unit post assessment. They were asked to think of a topic or issue that they have strong feelings about and write an argumentative essay expressing their opinion/claim.

Last week, your child passed in his/her "theme-based literary essay". They will have an opportunity to make corrections they identified in class last week for homework before it is graded. If you would like to read this essay, or any work that your child does in ELA, you can access it through Google Classroom. To access Google Classroom, please go to: <https://classroom.google.com>. Your child's username is 22(first 3 letters of your child's first name then first 3 letters of your child's last name). For example, Jane Smith's username would be: 22jansmi. Your child's password is his/her lunch ID number.

Our next unit will focus on informational reading and writing. We are looking forward to some new, interesting topics on: teen activism, child labor, environmentalism, and everyday heroes.

This unit's main Common Core State Standards covered were: W.6.1, W.6.4, W.6.5, W.6.9.a, W.6.10, RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.10, SL.6.1, SL.6.3, S.L.6.4, L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.3, L.6.6

Team Kennedy continued

Math - Mr. Reisine

As another Pi Day, one of my favorite days of the year, has come and gone, we celebrated in big style this year. The students completed a Pi Day poster, and all posters were entered into a Pi Day poster contest. There was one winning poster from each class, and out of those four, one team Pi Poster was chosen as Team Kennedy's winner. One poster would be chosen as the overall Bennet Academy winner, and those students had the pleasure of throwing a pie in Mr. Robinson's and Mr. Chella's faces. Our class winners were Ava Alibrio, Lauren Lerch, Chayse Mercer, Lyla Ratches, Jack Larsen, Frida Vasquez, Tahjae Thomas, Gabby Brown, and Mykayla Sprowl. All of these students received a Pi Day pencil. Team Kennedy's winners were Jack Larsen and Lyla Ratches. These two celebrities received Pi Day t-shirts. Not only did Jack and Lyla win for Team Kennedy, they were also chosen as the over all Bennet Academy winners! On Wednesday, March 16, the entire school watched as Lyla pied Mr. Robinson, and Jack pied Mr. Chella! Congratulations to all winners, and to all who participated in the Pi Day contest. This was a fun Pi day, and everyone did a fantastic job.

Science - Mrs. Matlock

In science, we are cruising through our weather unit! First, students focused on the Earth's atmosphere. They learned all about the individual layers and the composition of the atmosphere. Students participated in virtual lab experience where they launched weather balloons through the different layers and collected data specific to each layer. The data collected was related to the different densities, pressure, temperatures and phenomena associated with each individual layer. Students also graphed each layer according to altitude and temperature.

Everyday, we track the weather using our weather tracker spreadsheets on our chromebooks. Students log in and record weather conditions, temperatures and record highs and lows for the day. This data will be collected over the course of the unit and will ultimately be used in a culminating graphing activity.

As the unit progresses, we are examining the different methods of atmospheric heating. Students created beautiful diagrams that represented the different ways in which our atmosphere is heated through conduction, convection and radiation. These projects were worked on during science class and students worked in collaborative groups. Currently, we are wrapping up a lab experience which explores atmospheric heating using a heat lamp to warm beakers containing soil, water and air. Students take temperature measurements every minute for a ten minute period and observe and record the rate at which the substance they are warming heats. After the heating, comes the cool down. Just as we timed and took temperature measurements during the heating phase, we are doing the same in the reverse. Soil, water and air is heated for ten minutes and temperature measurements are taken every minute for ten minutes as the substances cool! Students are actively engaged in their learning and are loving lab days!

As we move through this unit, we are also examining and understanding global and local winds. The polar easterlies, westerlies, doldrums, trade winds and the horse latitudes are important parts of our weather pattern and we examine them closely! This is a nice lead into our severe weather portion of the unit. We are looking forward to starting our hurricane history projects and our tornado history projects as we move into studying different catastrophic storms in the very near future! Weather is wild and super exciting to study!

Social Studies-Ms. Moretto

Our Reflection Wall letters that are still inspiring us in the Media Center hallway have been acknowledged by many who pass the halls. Ms. Lynn Saltee, from the Manchester Historical Society has also taken a special interest in our students letters. Submissions of your child's letter will be reread. Twenty letters from each team will be submitted to be printed in a book of letters to remain in the Manchester Historical Society forever. Any student may also submit a drawing or painting that exemplifies the concept of the letters and could be chosen to be the cover of this special book. All students are encouraged to participate. Who knew??

Students are traveling through South America and finding out more about life on another continent. Students each made a picture block with pictures to represent the five themes of geography and one of culture. Each student had to stake a claim, give supporting details and relate the details to a reasonable explanation to support the claim. This was a fun way for some deep thinking and making connections!

Norman Rockwell lives again, thanks to Sup't Matt Geary, I have been awarded a Creativity Grant for our Kennedy Team Social Studies students to make the connections from Norman Rockwell's era and the social issues he painted, to today's social issues. Students will relive the study of the paintings and their lives today. If anyone has old calendars or NR memorabilia they can share, we would love to use them. Thank you in advance. This is a unique opportunity for your child to open the doors into a world that is so different but maybe not so different. Talk to your child about our weekly studies and join in on the fun.

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Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist
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Manchester, CT 06042
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Terri Smith
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Phone: 860-647-3595
Fax: 860-647-3327



The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.